Trade between India and West Germany

2306. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalisation of economic policy and pragmatic attitude of Government towards foreign Investment have encouraged German Companies to increase their involvement in India;

(b) if so, to what extent the trade between India and West Germany have increased as a result thereof; and

(c) what are the fields in which collaboration between the two countries is being further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Indo-FRG trade increased from Rs. 1443 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 1717 crores in 1984-85 (Provisional). There has, of late been considerable interest evinced by countries like the Federal Republic of Germany in exploring possibilities and opportunities for technology transfer and industrial collaboration including joint ventures with Indian enterprises. The major areas of collaboration between India and FRG so far cover product groups like machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Increase of import duty on TPA and DMT

2307. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the recent increase of import duty on T.P.A. and D.M.T. raw materials for polyester filament yarn from 140 per cent to 190 per cent.

(b) what are the reasons for putting T.P.A. under "limited permissible items" taking it off from the O.G.L. List; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Bombay Dyeing had been permitted to purchase a Record hand plant from "Hercofina" of U.S.A. in 1982 for producing D.M.T. which was supposed to produce 65,000 tonnes per annum but has produced only 10,400 tonnes leading to waste of foreign exchange as well as rupee resources; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The rate structure of import duty on TPA and DMT, both of which are used in the manufacture of synthetic filament yarn etc. was revised in order to maintain the competitive position of indigenously manufactured DMT.

(b) To regulate the import of TPA.

(c) The DMT plant of M/s. Bombay Dyeing has gone into production only recently. Production at the rated capacity in such plants is normally achieved over a period of time. It is early yet to assess production capability of this plant on a sustained basis. Import of capital goods for this plant was allowed in accordance with the import policy prevailing at the relevant time.

Steps to reduce unemployment

2308. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Central and State Governments to reduce the growing unemployment among skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled artisans and labour in the rural areas and with what results so far; and

(b) the details of schemes, if any, being implemented by the Central and State Governments to widen and diversify the scope and facilities for

training to reduce pressure and overcrowding in popular trades and to provide alternative avenues of employment to urban skilled labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) In addition to the sectoral investments during the Sixth Plan period which have resulted in an expansion of employment opportunities through the process of growth, there has been in operation important employment beneficiary oriented programmes for specific target groups such as the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), the Training Scheme for Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), and the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to Eudcated Youth. The Integrated Rural Development Programme benefited about 16.58 million families against a target of 15 million families during 1980—85. While National Rural Employment Programme has created 1775 million mandays of employment during 1980—85, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme created about 260 million mandays of employment during 1983—85. The scheme for Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment has trained about one million rural youth of which about 50 per cent have settled down in self-employment. The scheme for providing self-employment to the educated unemployed has benefited 2.42 lakh educated unemployed during 1983-84 and 2.29 lakh during 1984-85.

(b) vocational Training Institutions (Industrial Training Institutes) are already on the increase in the country. Their number has almost doubled in the past 5 years. Currently, there are over 1400 Industrial Training Institutes in the country. New trades are also being introduced as and when needs are projected by the employers/entrepreneurs. Steps have also been taken to introduce a module on entrepreneurial development in the curriculum.

Modernisation of Mining Industry

2309. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to modernise the mining industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Modernisation of mining methods is a continuing process. Steps taken in regard to mining are generally a part and parcel of the mining project. Modernisation programme for the mines of Public Sector undertakings under this Department have been drawn up during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The mines of the Public Sector Undertakings e.g. Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Bharat Goldmines Limited etc. have their own Plans of modernisation. Besides as per Science and Technology Plan implementation of the Department of Mines, outlays proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan are of the order of about Rs. 65 crores. This will cover the schemes for improved operating practices, improved resources recovery, development introduction of new technology for better performance, improving productivity and environmental control, augmentation facility for ore dressing etc.

Steps taken during Sixth Plan and proposed to be continued during the Seventh Plan in regard to coal mines, include introduction of large capacity excavation equipment, mechanisation, modern power support longwall equipment telemonitoring systems etc.